IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: SALTZMAN et al. Examiner: Unknown

Serial No.: 19/596,815 Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: June 26, 2006

Title: USE OF CATHEPSIN Z INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATMENT OF RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND OTHER AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

POWER OF ATTORNEY FOR PATENT APPLICATION

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I, Ross J. Oehler, an Officer of Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc., Assignee of the above-identified Application, hereby appoint the attorneys and/or agents associated with the Customer No.(s) provided below as attorneys and/or agents with full power to prosecute this application on behalf of Assignee and to transact all of Assignee's business in connection with the above-identified Application in the Patent and Trademark Office:

Customer No.: 005487

By:

Ross J. Oehler

Title: Vice President

Date: <u>2/8/06</u>_____

Address correspondence and telephone calls to:

Karen I. Krupen, Reg. No. 34,647

sanofi-aventis Inc. LLC U.S. Patent Operations Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800 Bridgewater, New Jersey 08807-0800

Telephone (908) 231-**4658** Telefax (908) 231-2626